

WILDLIFE DIARY

May 2017



Great Finds

Pacific Baza, *Aviceda subcristata* heard calling along Tarradarrapin Creek.

Flying fox camps are active across the Redlands. Redland Bay and Birkdale are notable colonies.

Did You Know?

Did you know The Pacific Baza is the sole Australian representative of a group of hawks variously known as Cuckoo Falcons, Bazas or Lizard Hawks? The former name is not inappropriate as these hawks do bear a superficial resemblance to some species of cuckoo.

Did you know in April and May, researchers found at the natural nest sites all the adult bees die as the cold weather starts. In the nest burrows, though, immature bees (called prepupae) are curled up inside their sealed cells. These prepupae become dormant during winter and stay inside their cells until the weather warms up in spring. Then they complete their development into adults and emerge into the sunshine to begin the new flying season. So, from about May to October no adult blue banded bees can be found flying in the garden.

Did you know many native land snails and slugs live in the moist layers of litter on the forest floor and other moist habitats such as rotting logs, under rocks or beneath debris? In eastern Australia, they are particularly diverse in rainforest areas. By contrast, fewer species occur in the dry eucalypt forests, but these dry-adapted species can have greater ranges than the rainforest species. Whereas marine snails typically use gills for breathing, land snails and slugs breathe air through a modified mantle chamber which acts like a lung. Some land snails have an operculum that seals the aperture which helps prevent water loss. In others, the shell aperture may be sealed by an epiphragm (hardened mucus) during extreme dry spells.

QLD Museum.

POPULATION MATTERS

Ten thousand years ago, the mass, the weight, of all the humans on the earth, plus all our pets, plus all the livestock we keep to feed ourselves, was 0.1% of 1% – one tenth of one percent – of the mass, the weight, of all the mammals on the earth.

Now, we, our pets and our livestock make up 96% – 98% of the mass of the mammals of the earth. The poor old elephants and tigers and rhinos and whales and kangaroos and all the rest of the mammals have gone from 99.9% to just 2 – 4%.

World population clock

<http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>

What is flowering

Melaleuca nodosa (Sol. ex Gaertn.) is a shrub of 1 – 4m with corky to papery bark. Currently it's in flower. Inflorescences dense, pseudopedunculate heads; rachis silky. Flowers solitary, paired or in threes within each bract, white to yellow. The largest concentration of this prickly but beautiful shrub is the Brisbane City Council reserves that border Lota Creek at Ransome, best accessed by Chelsea Road.

Noisy Pitta on the move

Noisy Pitta, *Pitta versicolor* a typical rainforest bird seen in our adjacent ranges can be seen for a short period in our mangrove and low land forests as they move further a-field to Peel Island and North Stradbroke and other coastal locations. Interestingly an extensive review of the literature showed that migration occurs in almost 40% of land bird species breeding in Australia, with a large proportion of these containing both migrant and resident populations. Partial migration is found in 44% of 155 non-passerine species and 32% of 317 passerine species examined. Such high proportions of species that are partially migratory are consistent with the suggestion that partial migration is particularly common in

Great Walks

Want to see a spectacular flyout on scale rarely seen in other countries then visit Redland Bay and observe the fly out from the Redland Bay flying fox camp.



WWW

Moreton Bay seagrass maps now online

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/wpccs#!/>

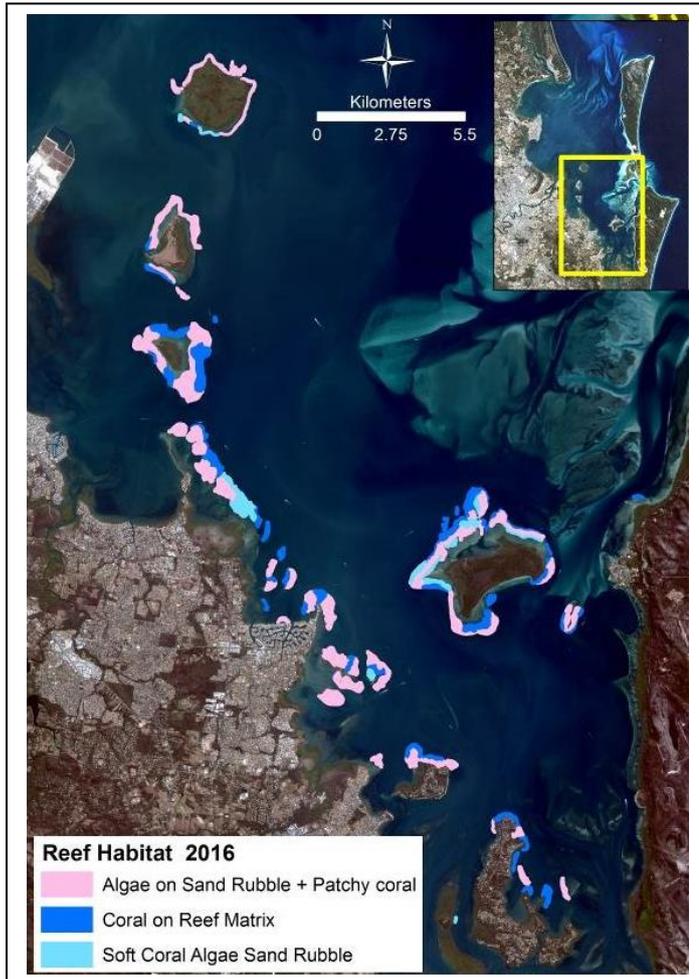
austral bird species. <http://www.publish.csiro.au/MU/MU03026>

Toondah harbour & political donations

<https://tinyurl.com/jnbqqqk>

Corals of Moreton Bay

The 7000-year-old coral communities of Moreton Bay are telling a curious tale, expanding when sea-levels rise or water quality improves, then declining when current circulation becomes more restricted.



Professor John Pandolfi from The University of Queensland and ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and his team have been dating the corals of Moreton Bay and finding they have undergone surges of growth, probably triggered by subtle changes in sea level and water conditions.

"We've found coral communities up to 7000 years old showing these curious growth episodes – the last one started about 400 years ago," he said.

"When coral reef growth slows, or stops in the Bay, it appears to correspond with a decline in the current circulation and an increase in turbidity."

The team has also found clear evidence of changes in the types of corals in the Bay from the delicate staghorn to more massive forms, coinciding with European settlement and possibly resulting from declining water quality as nearby catchments were altered.

<https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2009/08/7000-year-old-corals-of-moreton-bay-tell-their-story>

Recently scientists have discovered and mapped out new parts of the coral reef system in Moreton Bay with the hope the work will help inform decisions to better protect it.

The area's secret spots were revealed during the most detailed reef mapping ever done of the south-east Queensland coastal region. University of Queensland's map of reef in Moreton Bay Photo: Scientists want the new maps updated regularly. (Supplied: Dr Chris Roelfsema/University of Queensland)

A team of 19 Reef Check Australia volunteers spent two years exploring the reef system, making some surprising discoveries.

Goat Island, not far from where the ferry travels to go to North Stradbroke Island, there are many coral species <https://sees.uq.edu.au/article/2017/02/new-baseline-data-aid-managing-moreton-bay-coral-reefs>

Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead.



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